



# Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential.



@BlackfenSchool



<http://www.facebook.com/BlackfenSchoolForGirls>

[www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk](http://www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk)

19<sup>th</sup> December 2025



## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we bring the long Autumn term to an end, I'd like to pass on my thanks to you for your support of your daughters (and sons) this academic year so far. We are very pleased to see improved attendance and punctuality across the school, improved behaviour and some wonderful achievements across our student body.

Firstly, I'd like to share warm congratulations to our Year 11 Resource Provision students, who are the first in the cohort to receive formal qualifications to mark the end of Key Stage 4 in English. Well done for your resilience and hard work! I would also like to recognise every student who has undertaken Pre-Public Exams this term. These practice exams are such an important stepping stone towards the 'real thing.' Again, well done for showing up, trying hard and being resilient when these practice exams don't go as well as you'd like. Every practice is an opportunity to learn. Keep going!

We have had some absolutely wonderful performances at school. I would like to express my gratitude to the Expressive Arts team who worked so hard preparing the girls for our annual Winter Showcase. This time, the girls performed to over 200 primary school students and their teachers and then put on a sold-out show on Tuesday evening. Our showcase featured nearly 200 students from year 7 to year 12. It was an absolute extravaganza of talent in music, art, drama, design tech, dance and cheerleading. These performances always remind me what a privilege it is to be part of our students' life story; it is wonderful to see our students grow in confidence and to see how much they relish performing.

We brought the Autumn term to an end with our charity drives-raising money for Save the Children and the local Hospice with our Christmas jumpers and the Rudolph Fun Run for Year 7. Please do get onto our Just Giving page if you have not managed to donate as yet. The charities appreciate your support. We hope to raise £2000 this year.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and best wishes for 2026. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.



**Carrie Senior**  
Headteacher

## Literacy Across the curriculum

### Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Thirty students participated in a workshop day on 2nd December to help develop their public speaking skills. We were thrilled to work again with Speakers Trust on the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. Six selected students will now receive further mentoring and have a chance to represent Blackfen at the Bexley regional finals in March 2026. Many congratulations to: Swaraa (10ANN) ; Evie (10IST) ; Mia (10KRU); Nora (10IST); Malia (10IST) and Simran (10KRU). Millie (10ANN) and Penny (10KVI) were also highly commended. All students represented the school superbly, with the external trainer remarking what a pleasure it was to work with them.



### Year 7 Writing Competition

Year 7 classes received lessons on Gothic writing this year and all students participated in the Halloween short story competition. Many congratulations to our winner, Amber (7NHH) and two runners up, Maisie (7MJA) and Bella (&MJA). Many thanks also to our Governor for Literacy who helped to judge to entries.



**Ms Norwood**  
**Teacher of English & Literacy Co-ordinator**

---

## Chess Tournament

Blackfen held its first Chess Tournament of the school year on Tuesday 9th December. It was always going to be a competitive battle for the prestigious Blackfen Chess title, and it didn't disappoint.

The tournament went right down to the final match, where Ami Year 9 emerged as the Blackfen Chess Champion.



Congratulations to Ami and to all the students who took part.

**Mr Love**  
**Faculty Leader for English**

---

## Careers News

### **SEND Local Offer Live Event**

The Local Offer Live event is a drop-in session designed for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), aged 13–25, and their families. It focuses

on Preparation for Adulthood, helping young people explore their next steps in Education, Employment, and Training.

During the event parents, carers and students were able to access:

Expert advice and guidance on education, training, and employment options.

Progression pathways – learn about local colleges, apprenticeships, and job opportunities.  
Careers guidance tailored to SEND young people.

Aspiration workshops – share hopes and dreams for the future, information on sectors such as finance, creative industries, health and social care, and more.

The **SEND Event** was a fantastic opportunity for young people with special education needs and disabilities to explore the wide range of **services, resources, and future pathways** available to support them in **Education, Employment, Training and beyond**. The event featured local providers, support services, and organisations who are passionate about helping young people achieve their goals and aspirations.

A group of students from Blackfen attended and provided feedback after the event:

*'I went to the Careers Fair and looked at different types of colleges and universities'*

*'At the Careers Fair I talked to the different stall's and got leaflets with different ideas'*

*'I enjoyed the Careers Fair'*

**Mrs Smith**  
**Careers Department**



## Dance/Drama News

### Winter Showcase

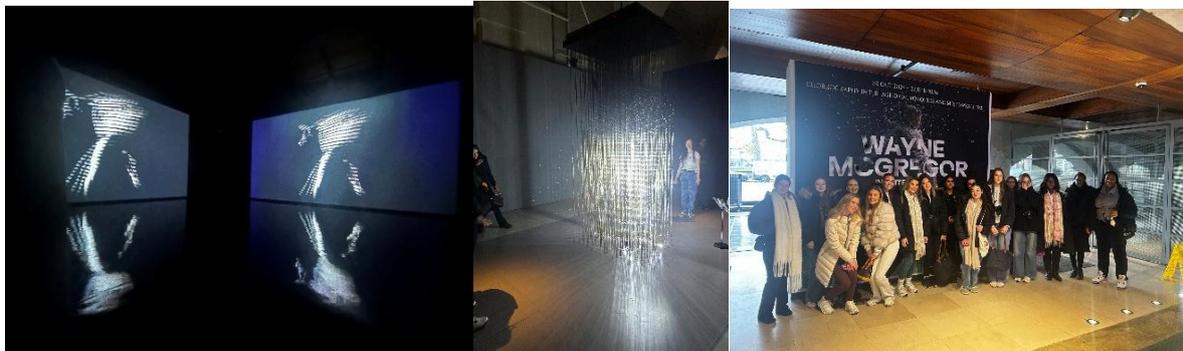
It's been another busy but exciting term in Performing Arts, we have been rehearsing with various groups at lunchtime and afterschool to prepare for the Winter Showcase (16<sup>th</sup> Dec) where over 180 students performed in a variety of acts.

On the day of the show we welcomed three local primary schools to watch a matinee version, with the full show taking place at 6pm, following on from the DT and Art exhibition at 5.30pm.

### Somerset House Exhibition

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December A-Level students studying Photography, Art and Dance went to Somerset House to see two exhibitions. One was Wayne McGregors 'Infinite Bodies'. The interactive exhibition was multi-sensory which supported the learning of students in a range of expressive arts subjects.

This exhibition celebrates multi award-winning choreographer Wayne McGregor's extraordinary collaborations, bringing together world-leading artists, designers, filmmakers, and musicians.



**Ms Jarman**  
**Second In Charge- Expressive Arts Faculty**  
**Subject Leader of Dance and Drama**

---

## News from the Resource Provision

### Maths

Students in the Resource Provision have been working hard across both key stages and are in full swing, demonstrating a real desire to learn. Year 7's have covered topics including ratio, capacity, money, time, and geometry. Year 8's have started to extend their knowledge and develop their understanding in these areas. Year 9 students embarked on their Entry Level Maths coursework and over the course of the term have shown a real commitment to their studies and have all managed to complete 8 components and 8 assessments.

Following on from this, students undertook a project on the 3 inspirational and highly talented women in the film *Hidden Figures*. Students were able to experience a range of Speech and Language strategies including the use of Colourful Semantics to research the characters Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson. To conclude the project, students were able to watch the film and complete their own review.

*'I watched Hidden Figures. The film is about three women who had helped NASA with their rockets going into space. Throughout the film, it showed how it really was for all three women as they had to deal with racism, sexism and discrimination. At the end they all succeeded and were known for their great work for NASA.'*

*The characters were played by Taraji P. Henson as Katherine Johnson. Octavia Spencer as Dorothy Vaughan and Janelle Monae as Mary Jackson.*

*I liked the film because I felt the vibe of the three women as they felt very powerful for themselves and they stuck with each other, helping and supporting each other. In my opinion I feel that the film had a meaning behind it. It was saying that if you are or look different, that doesn't mean you should be treated differently and doesn't stop you from giving up.*

*My favourite part of the film was when Katherine Johnson was roaring loudly to a man on how she was being treated differently and she ran to a different building to go to the coloured bathroom.*

*As I was watching that scene I felt a wave of respect and amazement how Katherine was raged with anger when she was confessing everything that she held inside. I am really impressed that Katherine showed her real emotions that she always has been feeling secretly ever since she worked for NASA*

*I would definitely recommend this film to people who like to watch characters who have power and pride in what they are doing during the film and that they are not giving up.'*

*'I watched Hidden Figures. The film is about 3 girls that work for NASA. The characters were Dorothy Vaughan who was played by Octavia Spencer. Mary Jackson was played by Janelle Monae and Katherine was played by Taraji P Henson. I like the film because it was interesting.*

*My favourite part of the film was when Katherine Johnson was telling them how she felt at work.'*

During the last 2 weeks of term, all Key Stage 3 students have actively engaged in consolidating their learning of 2D and 3D shapes. Having chosen a Christmas character to build, students set about creating their master piece. It was a joy to see the excitement and engagement across all 3 year groups. Well done everyone – they look fabulous!



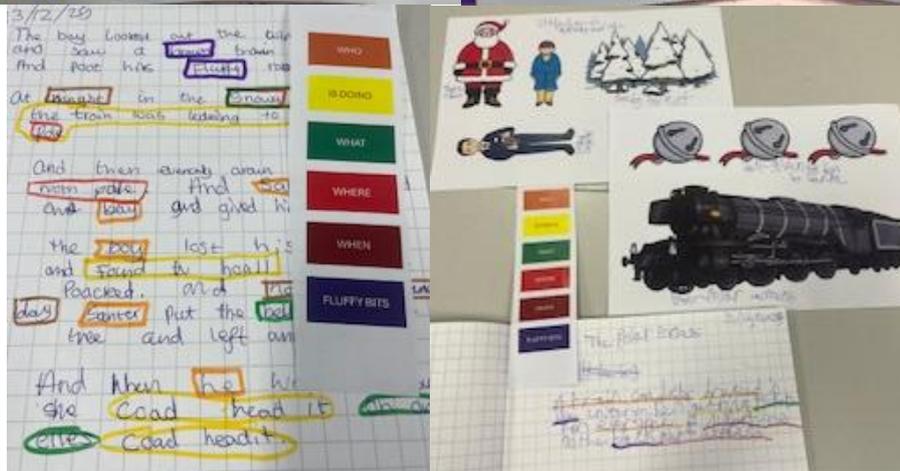
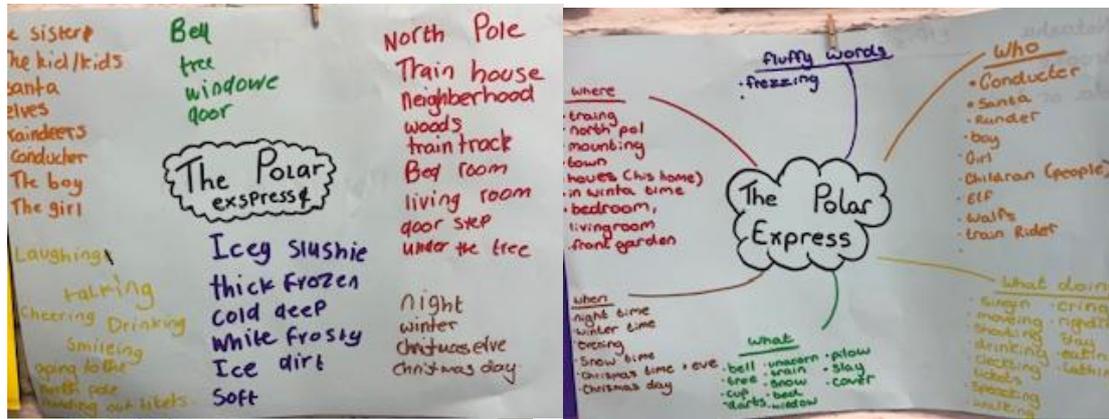
Key Stage 4 pupils have been working hard all term in preparation for their exam in January. They have all shown such resilience and commitment to their studies and I wish them all the very best for the 8th January.

### History

Key Stage 3 pupils have been learning about the Slave Trade and British Civil Rights Movement. It has been a real pleasure to see everyone so actively engaged in their learning and recent assessments have clearly shown how students can make inferences, find facts, make comparisons and give their own opinions.

To conclude the term, this week, Key Stage 3 students have had the opportunity to explore Colourful Semantics through the film and book, The Polar Express. Here, students explored the word 'believe' through a word attack, then, having heard the story, created their own mind map to check what they had remembered. This led to the creation of some excellent sentences.





### Aladdin – Here we come!!!

Thanks to the Expressive Arts Department, the Resource Provision have all had a wonderful experience at The Orchard Theatre this week watching Aladdin. Students across all key stages actively engaged in all aspects of the Panto on Tuesday afternoon. From “It’s behind you” to “Whacka, whacka Frankie!”, students sang, shouted, laughed and danced their way through a fun afternoon, made all the more special as two of our own students were dancing on stage, one of whom is in the Resource Provision. And who could forget the shout out to Blackfen School! Students could be heard saying “I love it here!” and “This is the best day of my life!” Staff too enjoyed themselves and would like to thank the students for their impeccable behaviour throughout.



Mrs Baker  
Teacher of SEN

## News from the Computing and ICT department

### 2025 UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge – RESULTS

**Level complete! Your hard work and thinking skills really paid off!**



You may remember that in early November this year all Blacken students in Year 8 and Year 9, as well as some in Year 10, took part in a computational thinking challenge run by the Raspberry Pi Foundation. The UK Bebras yearly challenge aims to develop students' logical thinking and problem-solving skills by getting them to solve various interactive challenges within 45 minutes. Our school performed really well again this year. Eight of our students received gold certificates placing them in the top 10% nationally: **Zara** 8-AVA-9, **Erika** 8-VKN-5, **Paige** 8-MHU-3, **Amelie** 8-RPA-7, **Sonya** 8-MHU-3, **Arwen** 9-SEK-7, **Courtney** 9-GVA-2 and **Lize** 9-NJA-1. Congratulations! This is an impressive achievement.

We are incredibly proud of every student who took part in the competition and showed determination and resilience as they tackled the challenges. Out of the 390 students who participated, 107 achieved a Distinction certificate and 102 were awarded a Merit certificate. A further 181 students received a certificate for participating, recognising their commitment, perseverance and willingness to challenge themselves. Every certificate reflects valuable learning and effort, with all students strengthening their logical thinking and problem-solving skills through taking part.

Well done to everyone who took part. With the skills gained this year, we're excited to see what our students will achieve next year.

*The future is full of AI, but logic, coding, problem-solving and ICT are still the skills that employers really want. They help us succeed in any job and handle challenges in our personal lives. At the end of the day, AI can't match genuine creativity or the human touch in problem-solving.*

**Take Computing or ICT at KS4 and show the world what you can do!"**

**Ms Auvinet**

**Subject Leader for Computing and IT**

---

## Wellbeing News

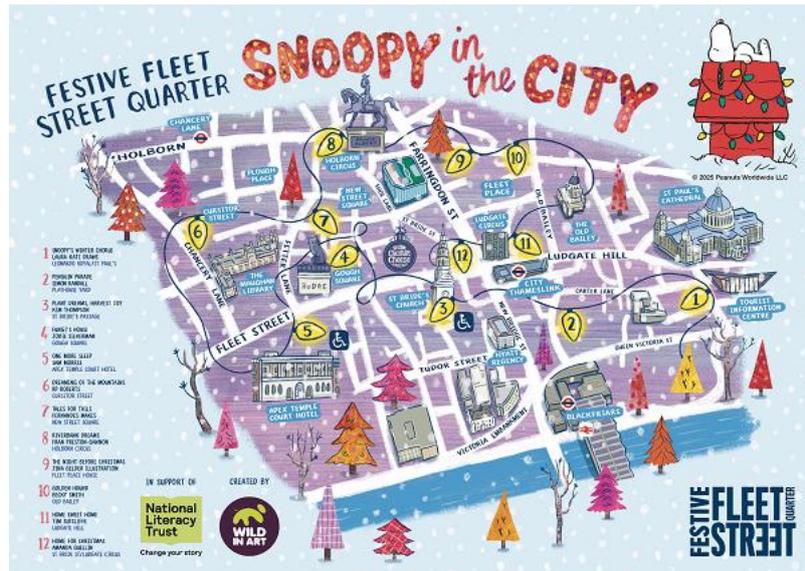
### Warmest Wellbeing Wishes for the Winter Break

What a long term it's been and a busy one too and I think we are all ready for some time to unwind and put into practice all the lovely feel-good wellbeing practices that we know so well to boost our mood.

In school we have been busy recruiting and training our new Mental Health Ambassador team and they have some wonderful ideas to help support our students within the school community, starting with helping on our charity day and then mentoring, assemblies and much more to come.

Sometimes once the rush of Christmas is over, we are left with days to fill before the new term starts, so here are some ideas that you may want to explore before we resume school in the New Year....

## The Snoopy Trail Fleet Street



<https://www.fleetstreetquarter.co.uk/events/explore-the-snoopy-in-the-city-map>

## Gingerbread City Coal Drops Yard



<https://www.th GingerbreadCity.com/>

## Canary Wharf Lights



Canary Wharf lights refer primarily to its spectacular **Winter Lights festival**, a free annual event showcasing world-class light art installations across the estate, returning in January 2026 with a "DREAMSCAPE" theme, transforming the financial district into an open-air gallery with surreal, interactive displays from dusk till late, perfect for winter evening strolls. The estate also features permanent light artworks and has hosted other light festivals, like Summer Lights. [↗](#)

### Winter Lights Festival (January 2026)

- **Theme:** DREAMSCAPE, exploring surreal and human experiences.
- **Dates:** January 20 – January 31, 2026.
- **Times:** 5 pm to 10 pm nightly.
- **Cost:** Free to attend, no booking required.

Whatever you chose to do even if it's visiting one our our wonderful parks nearby, Danson or Hall Place, wrap up warm and take in the sights.

Blackfen High Street Library has some wonderful courses starting in the new year for teens, check this example out below.

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January  
for 6 weeks**

**5-6:30pm**

AT ROOTED COFFEE HOUSE  
BLACKFEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
7-9 BLACKFEN ROAD  
SIDCUP DA15 9LU

**BOOK IN  
NOW!**

**THE SHINE  
COURSE**

For more info contact:  
kaley@blackfencommunitylibrary.org

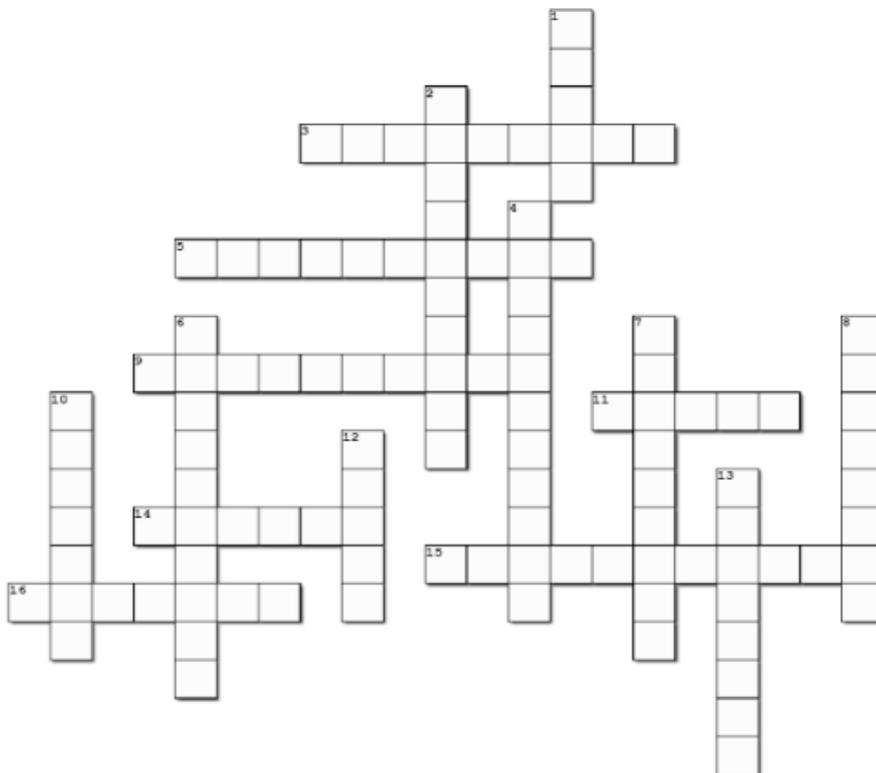
A fun and interactive 6 week personal development course for girls aged 11-15

Through fun activities, the sessions will help to develop a strong sense of personal identity, confidence, purpose for the future and the chance to make new friends.

Delicious drinks and snacks will be provided with a free gift each week.

## Time for hot chocolate and test your crossword skills

A crossword with a twist! Each of the answers highlights positive and proactive ways to help manage your mental health. Once you have finished the crossword, take a moment to reflect on how many of these you do regularly and which you could do more of...



### Across

3. The process of using food to support wellbeing (9)
5. The relationship we have with others (10)
9. An ancient practice derived from India (10)
11. Drink two litres a day for optimal functioning (5)
14. David Attenborough's favourite topic (6)
15. The ability to be fully present (11)
16. One of the first skills we learn at school (7)

### Down

1. Rhythm we can dance to (5)
2. The use of imagination (10)
4. Regularly recording reflections (11)
6. The state of being free from tension (10)
7. Appreciation for something or someone (9)
8. Movement to improve wellbeing (8)
10. Activities that are undertaken for pleasure (7)
12. A five-letter word with lots of z's (5)
13. Something we can give that doesn't cost a thing (8)

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year and if anyone you know is in need of someone to talk to over this festive break then please pass on the helplines below.

- Mind Text SHOUT to [85258](tel:85258) to contact the [Shout textline](https://www.shouttextline.com/)
- Kooth 020 3984 9337
- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>

**Mrs Latif**  
**Student Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Support Officer**

# NUMERACY CORNER

(answers next time)

Work out the answers to the facts and then use the code breaker below to find the right letter and crack the code!

A	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	L	M	N	O	R	S	T	Y
4	12	3	24	30	48	42	36	7	5	72	40	56	6	32	63

Letter	C														
Number	12														
Fact	4x3	6x7	8x7	4x9	12÷2	8x4	10÷2	2x2	18÷3						



Letter															
Number															
Fact	8x6	7x8	3x8	6x4	4x8	9x4	8x9	6x8	30÷5						



Letter															
Number															
Fact	6x5	7x8	8x5	20÷4		16x2	7x6	2x12							



Letter															
Number															
Fact	30÷6	16÷4	2x16	6x7		24÷4	40÷10	21÷3	8÷2						



Letter															
Number															
Fact	35÷7	32÷8	9x8	21÷7	12x2	8x7	60÷10								



 Answers to last time:

**PLAYTHINK 556** DIFFICULTY: ●●●●●●●●  
 REQUIRED: Ⓞ COMPLETION: ☐ TIME: ☐

**NUMBER SEQUENCE I**

Examine the series of numbers. Can you work out the logic behind it and fill in the next number in the sequence?

↓  
 I  
 ↓  
 II  
 ↓  
 21  
 ↓  
 1211  
 ↓  
 111221  
 ↓  
 ?

**556**

**312211**

Each term is a description of the number preceding it: "11" means there's one 1; "21" means there are two 1s; "1211" means there is one 2 and one 1; "111221" means there is one 1, one 2 and two 1s.

Mrs Tregenna, Numeracy Coordinator,  
 Maths Faculty

# Dates for your Diary

Events scheduled so far

Date	Event
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>Christmas Holidays</b>
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	<b>INSET DAY Staff Training</b>
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Year 11 Parents Evening 4.00 -6.30pm
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Trip to NYC (Year 11/13 Politics/Citizenship)
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Box Clever Theatre Company performance
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026	Citizenship Fair times tbc
25 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Maths Seminar at Disneyland Paris
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 9 Information Evening: KS4 Course Selection
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 9 course selection meetings (careers)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 11 Drama Exam
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 11 Drama Exam
<b>16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> February - 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Y12 BTEC/Y12 GCSE resit/Year 11 PPEs
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 9 DTP/MEN Immunisation
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 10 Drama Exam Year 9 Parents Evening 4.00-6.30pm
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 10 Drama Exam
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Careers Fair
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Governors Curriculum Meeting 5pm
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 8 & 10 Ski Trip
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	GCSE Dance Showcase 5.30pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 9 KS4 Course Selection interviews with LT
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 11 Dance Exam Year 12 'Next Steps' parents evening
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 11 Dance Exam
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 12 PPEs begin
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 7 Parents Evening 4.00 – 6.30pm
W/B 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Achievement Assemblies
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 9 DTP/Men immunisation catchups The Music Show 2026 5-7pm Governors FGB Meeting
<b>30<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
W/B 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Year 10 PPEs all week
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2026	Year 12 Parents Evening
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Year 8 HPV Immunisation
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Drama Showcase
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Year 7 STEM Day KS3 Dance Showcase
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Year 7 STEM Day
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Public Exams start Year 12 Work Experience one week

Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Year 10 Parents Evening 4-6.30pm Governors Resources meeting
<b>25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 8 Parents Evening Governors Curriculum meeting
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Governors Resources meeting 5pm
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026	Year 8 HPV immunisation catchups
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 11 end of exams celebration
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Sixth Form Induction Day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2026	Year 8/9 immunisation catchups
W/B 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Provisional Community Celebration assemblies
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Year 6 Induction Day and parents evening
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Summer Showcase
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Sports Day
W/B 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Year 10 Work Experience
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Discover Day 1
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Discover Day 2
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Governors FGB meeting
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Last day of Summer Term